(a) the details of institutes which have been granted the status of deemed university in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to streamline the procedure for granting deemed university status to certain institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The names of institutions of higher education, State-wise, that have been declared as deemed-to-be-universities, is enclosed as Statement. [Refer to the Statement appendid to the answer to USQ 955 Part (C).]

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission, which is responsible for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India, has constituted an Expert Committee to prepare draft regulations on deemed-to-be-universities. The Expert Committee has prepared draft UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2008 which are under consideration of the Commission in consultation with the stakeholders.

Law regarding right to education

969. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to enact a national law in the country, regarding the right to education , which is constitutionally guaranteed; and

(b) if not, the details as to how Government is going to address the issue of implementing the right to education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years by providing that "*the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine*", process has been initiated for enactment of suitable central legislation on Right to Education.

Performance of Mid-day Meal Scheme

970. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether the Scheme has reduced the school dropouts;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to extend the Scheme to the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information available hot, cooked Mid day Meal is being provided to all children studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government

(including Local Body), Government Aided Schools and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Centres. The Scheme has been extended to upper primary stage of education, *i.e.* classes VI-VIII with effect from 1.10.2007, in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). The programme will be extended to all areas across the country from 2008-09.

Schools without lavatories in Jharkhand

971. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many schools in Jharkhand are yet to have lavatories;

(b) by when all the schools in the State would have lavatories;

(c) whether there would be water facilities as well in these schools, alongwith lavatories;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these facilities would be given to all the schools in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per 7th India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT with reference date 30.9.2002, out of a total of 22,690 schools in Jharkhand, 19,643 schools did not have urinals and 18,518 schools were without lavatories.

(b) to (e) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Governments. Government of India also provides assistance to the States for various infrastructure facilities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, including drinking water and toilet facilities.

Building of Navodaya Vidyalaya in Uttarakhand

†972. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the classes for Navodaya Vidyalaya at Bageshwar in Uttarakhand are being conducted;

(b) whether the foundation-stone for construction of the building for the Vidyalaya has been laid;

(c) if so, whether construction work has started; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when construction work would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.